



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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March 2, 2010

Nebraska Occupational Therapy Practice Board
Nebraska Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
Nebraska Board of Physical Therapy

Dear Board Members:

The Nebraska Department of Education Special Education Office is in receipt of your letters regarding concerns about the use of the coaching model to provide special education early intervention services. We understand that the bases for your concerns are: 1) potential liability to the therapist if a school district bills for therapy services provided by an individual who is not a qualified therapist; and 2) possible misrepresentation to parents that a child is receiving therapy when the service is not being provided by a licensed therapist.

The Special Education Office has, and continues, to provide education to school district personnel regarding the appropriate use of the coaching model. If anyone has information about the abuse or misuse of the coaching model that should be investigated by NDE, we encourage them to file a written complaint with our office. Complaints are studied by staff with findings issued, based on the information gathered. Should a case of non-compliance be determined, the district will be required to correct individual situations immediately and take steps to address systemic problems to eliminate the identified concern.

We have included the appropriate use of the coaching model as a topic for our next statewide phone conference with Special Education Directors. If you believe there is a need to arrange a face-to-face meeting for further discussion of this issue, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Carol H. McClain, Ph.D.
Special Education Management Team
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cc: Jan Thelen, Part B 619 Coordinator
Joan Luebbbers, NDE Part C Co-Lead
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